

the Nation, but we are not alone in our effort to make our country better. In fact, we are but a small part. There are great events taking place every day in our country that are examples of neighbor helping neighbor, people who do not wait and do not ask for help but take it upon themselves to act. I would like to tell you about one such example that has been going on for years in Wyoming right in the small community I call home.

When people think about my hometown of Gillette, WY, many images come to mind—sagebrush as far as the eye can see, coal trucks, and cattle herds. We have deer, antelope, and some buffalo in the neighboring community of Wright. Our kids are great basketball players, and we work hard to get the methane gas and minerals that power this country. The list goes on. But after living in Gillette for more than three decades, what stands out about home are the people themselves, their character, their sense of community, and how they come together to help each other. And then there is the crawfish. Yes, I said crawfish.

This week, Gillette will be kicking off a 24-year tradition of flying in 10,000 pounds of crawfish for the annual Crawfish Boil. The event raises money for local families with medical hardships and was started in 1983 by the Society of Petroleum Engineers. The event raised \$117,000 last year to help people get medical treatment. This weekend we hope to top that number.

Wyoming may be small in population, but our families know how to help each other out more than any other State in the Nation. Wyomingites do not just rely on government for help—they talk to neighbors, they come up with a good idea, they organize, and they follow through. The crawfish feed is an example for the Nation on how to pull yourself and your neighbor up by the bootstraps and have fun doing it.

Gillette not only raised \$117,000 at last year's Crawfish Boil, the Festival of Trees raised \$51,500 for hospice and lifeline services, the Chili Cook-Off raised \$28,800 for the Council of Community Services, the Black Cat Ball raised \$26,000 for the Hospice Hospitality House, the Chuckles for Charity event raised \$24,000 for the Gillette Area Refuge, and the Rotary Ball raised \$40,000 for education and other programs in Gillette. Mr. President, \$287,000 in 1 year, in one community with roughly 25,000 residents. I could not think of a better place to call home.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### CODY CARITHERS

• Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, it is with the greatest pleasure that I honor and congratulate Cody Carithers who is a senior at Highland High School in Arkansas and will graduate on May 18, 2007. Cody has accomplished an amazing feat—he has never missed a day of

school. Since kindergarten at Cherokee Elementary School in Highland until now, never missed a day.

This accomplishment has not been easy. Cody was diagnosed with a brain tumor near his optic nerve a little over 2 years ago. This caused frequent headaches and required many trips to Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock. Cody was adamant about maintaining his perfect attendance, and the hospital worked with him to schedule his appointments on school holidays or in the evening so he wouldn't miss a day of school. What a determined young man.

Cody is involved in a number of school activities, clubs and organizations. He is an active member of Future Farmers of America and is president of the Rebels Against Drugs Program at Highland High School. He has also participated in sports.

During the summer, Cody volunteered at the Sharp County Library. He has been employed for the past 2 years at Ivey's Automotive Center in Highland. Cody's plans after graduation are to attend Black River Technical College and pursue a degree in aviation maintenance or automotive technology.

I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Cody Carithers for his determination, drive and incredible school attendance record. He exemplifies Highland High School's motto, "A tradition of excellence."•

##### TRIBUTE TO DR. DAVID M. GIPP

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to an extraordinary scholar, leader, and friend, Dr. David M. Gipp.

On May 2, Dr. Gipp will celebrate 30 years at the helm of United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck, ND. United Tribes Technical College, UTTC, is the only intertribally owned postsecondary vocational institution in the Nation. Since its founding in 1969, the college has served more than 10,000 students representing 75 federally recognized tribes.

During his tenure as president, Dr. Gipp has spearheaded an incredible transformation of the college and in higher education for American Indians. Dr. Gipp was the first executive director of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium and later he served as its president. He was instrumental in the formulation of the Tribal Colleges or Universities Assistance Act, which started to address the Federal Government's obligation in providing higher education for American Indians.

Under Dr. Gipp's leadership, UTTC has grown from just over 100 students and 12 programs of study to more than 1,018 students for the 2006–2007 school year with 24 different 2-year and certificate programs and bachelor's programs. In this time, Dr. Gipp has led the college's transition from traditional vocational trades to programs geared toward the labor needs of Indian Country. He also propelled UTTC into becoming the first tribal college in the

Nation to be authorized to offer full online degree programs. In recent years, Dr. Gipp has led the fight to restore funding for the college that was cut from the Department of Interior's budget.

Dr. Gipp has been an agent of positive change in the lives of thousands of students who have attended United Tribes Technical College. He is a true champion for higher education and a powerful national advocate for the tribal colleges. His passion is infectious, and he has empowered individuals to reach to their goals no matter how small or large.

John Quincy Adams once said "[I]f your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader." Dr. Gipp is a leader in every sense of the word. I want to extend my congratulations to Dr. Gipp on 30 years as president of United Tribes Technical College.●

##### TRIBUTE TO CECIL E. WILLIAMS, JR.

• Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life of a man revered as the most influential man in Arkansas agriculture. Cecil E. Williams, Jr., who passed on April 12, was respected by his peers and seen as an unparalleled advocate for farmer's interests, where he tried to save not only their lives, but also their jobs and livelihood.

Undoubtedly, agriculture is the backbone of rural Arkansas and rural America. Today, Arkansas agriculture provides nearly one in every five jobs in my State, and we rank in the top 10 nationally in the production of many commodities, including rice and cotton, where we rank No. 1 and No. 2 respectively. Much of Arkansas' success in agriculture can be directly attributed to Cecil Williams and his hard work. Mr. Williams worked hard during his lifetime to make Arkansas agriculture a force to be reckoned with while establishing workable, sensible, and sound farm policy. For nearly 40 years, Cecil Williams, known as the "Dean of Farm Bills," served as the director of the Agricultural Council of Arkansas, ACA, where he took great pride in serving what he considered a worthwhile cause: farmers and agriculture.

After receiving an agribusiness degree in 1960 from Louisiana State University, Mr. Williams began his career as a fieldworker for the National Cotton Council and gained valuable insight into the production, business, and policy angles of agriculture. After an impressive 5 years with the National Cotton Council, the Agricultural Council of Arkansas recognized his talents and heavily recruited him to join their ranks. Once at the council, he quickly ascended to a leadership role with the organization and went on to fight for farm policy that made sense for Arkansas, improve checkoff programs for